

Pupil Voice: Our Outcomes

You Said / We Did

School Council

Homework | Uniform | Lunch and Break Time | Intervention |
Trips & Visits | Careers | Competitions | Music | Sporting Events |



creating the right culture to learn to succeed



Autumn Term
2024



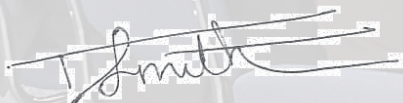
An introduction...

This booklet presents a collaborative effort that reflects the voices of our vibrant school community. Within these pages, you will find valuable insights, constructive feedback, and the collective aspirations of our pupils.

We take pride in our diverse pupil body, an inclusive community across all year groups, cultures, backgrounds and talents. Our School Council is made up of ten pupils; two representatives from each Year Council. They come together once each term to share their thinking, ideas and opinions, and to put these to decision-makers within school with the intention to make Priory an even greater school than it already is.

While our school council embarked on this process of democracy together, we also took the opportunity to celebrate the many aspects that makes our school exceptional. However, we also recognise that growth requires continuous reflection and action.

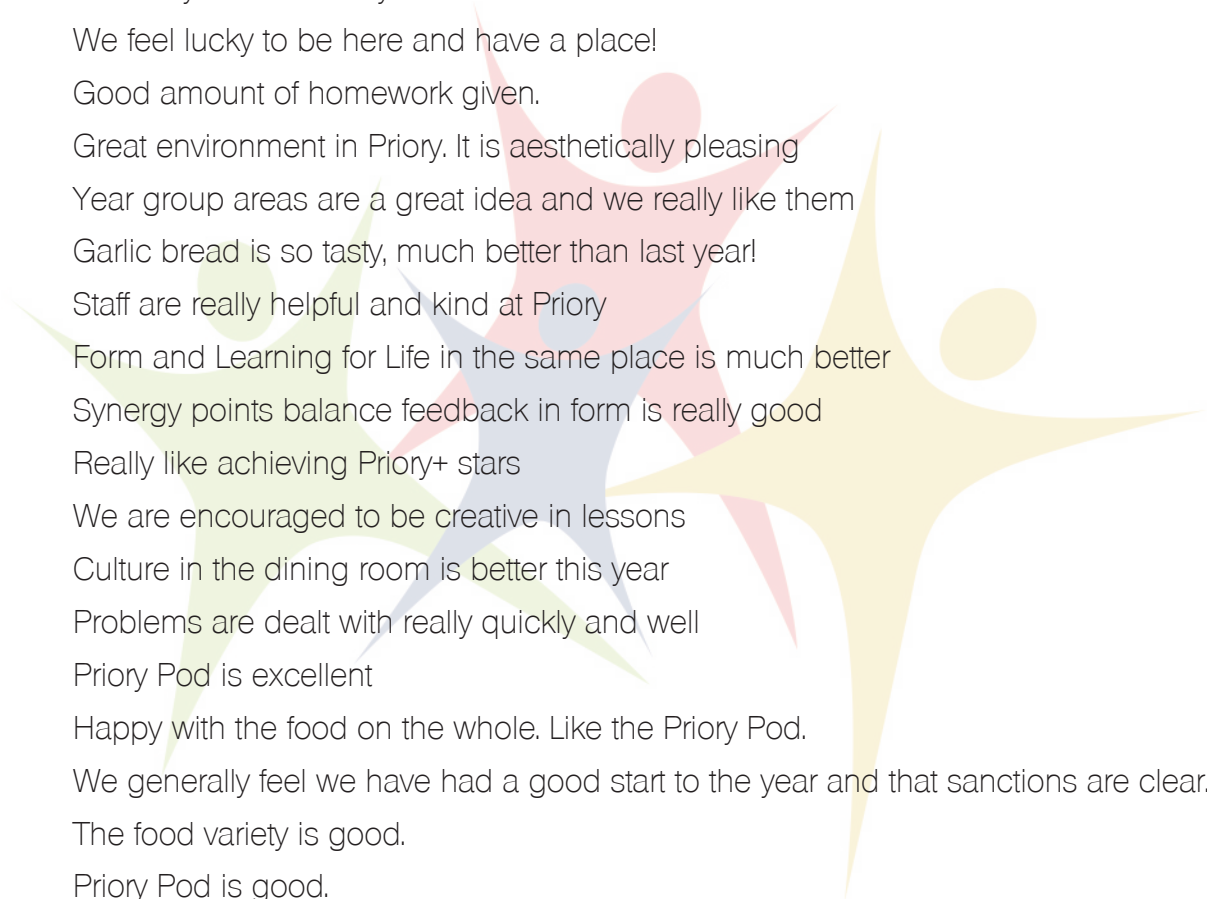
The following areas have been identified by our pupils as areas that we could evolve further:



Ms T Smith
Lead Practitioner for Personal Development
Penwortham Priory Academy

what we think is going well...

Year A sample of positive comments:



7	Being able to come and look around the school prior to joining Priory really helped us settle in
7	We feel like we are given lots of extra opportunities.
7	We really like the library and the teachers
7	We feel lucky to be here and have a place!
7	Good amount of homework given.
8	Great environment in Priory. It is aesthetically pleasing
8	Year group areas are a great idea and we really like them
8	Garlic bread is so tasty, much better than last year!
8	Staff are really helpful and kind at Priory
8	Form and Learning for Life in the same place is much better
8	Synergy points balance feedback in form is really good
8	Really like achieving Priory+ stars
8	We are encouraged to be creative in lessons
8	Culture in the dining room is better this year
8	Problems are dealt with really quickly and well
8 & 9	Priory Pod is excellent
10	Happy with the food on the whole. Like the Priory Pod.
10	We generally feel we have had a good start to the year and that sanctions are clear.
11	The food variety is good.
11	Priory Pod is good.
11	Black History Month - A positive initiative.
11	The new toilets are nice.
11	Same teacher for Form and Learning for Life is better

What could be even better if...

Year 7

Pupil Voice 1 We would like boys to be able to play netball
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Mr Gee and Mr Bullock
Outcome and actions KS3 boys are welcome to attend after school netball.

Pupil Voice 2 Lunch queue culture could be improved further
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Mr Faulkner
Outcome and actions Mr Faulkner has been monitoring the situation and the culture has improved since this was raised.

Pupil Voice 3 We would like more croissants, pancakes or chicken wraps. Could the catering staff keep some food behind for the 'second half' of lunch for those that are at the back of the queue?
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Miss Rigby about this.
Outcome and actions Miss Rigby can't 'keep stuff back' in case it doesn't sell at all and becomes waste. She will provide more of certain products.

Pupil Voice 4 Boys Hex toilet door - There is a hole in the lock space which needs filling
Action Taken Mrs Farley informed the Estates Team.
Outcome and actions Resolved now as this was being fixed at the time.. Ms Smith has asked the Estates Team to create signs for the toilets to remind pupils to report any maintenance issues straight away.

Pupil Voice 5 Is it possible to have a 'quiet room' for break and lunch?
Action Taken Mrs Farley suggested they speak to the related subject teachers who have sofa study areas and ask if they can be used.
Outcome and actions Ms Smith has messaged staff to see who has a quiet space available

Pupil Voice 6 LEAP - Homework Club - Has started to get noisier due to the dual purpose of the LEAP Social Club. Could the social club be elsewhere?
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Mrs Holland, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Whalley as they run LEAP Homework Club - Would it be possible for pupils not doing homework to go into 'Big LEAP'?
Outcome and actions LEAP Homework Club is now 'quiet homework only' on a Wednesday and Friday break and lunch times.

Pupil Voice 7 In the library, the librarians' role needs to be clearer
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Mrs Elliott about the rules of the library and responsibilities of librarians.
Outcome and actions Mrs Elliott is supporting the librarians. Mrs Farley spoke to a few people who regularly visit the library and they have had assistance from librarians.

Pupil Voice 8	Pupils working in classrooms next to the yard are being distracted by pupil noise of passing PE classes at times.
Action Taken	Mrs Farley spoke to PE staff to ask pupils to move more quietly around school as to not disrupt learning.
Outcome and actions	PE will monitor their classes in forthcoming weeks

Pupil Voice 9	Year 7 would like to do a bake competition and bake sale on a Halloween theme.
Action Taken	Further meeting to discuss. Mrs Farley checked with SLT that the bake sale can go ahead and planned another meeting with Year Council to discuss
Outcome and actions	The baking competition and sale successfully took place on the week commencing 28th October.

Year 8

Pupil Voice 1	Please can we have football nets on the front yard?
Action Taken	Mrs Bailey spoke to Mr Bolton
Outcome and actions	Mrs Bailey spoke to Mr Bolton who has recently discussed with Mr Gee about football being played on the yard. Whilst this is not possible with balls accidentally hitting the school windows and staff cars, Mr Bolton and Mr Gee are looking into Year 8 perhaps sharing the MUGA for football with Year 7.

Pupil Voice 2	Please could we have a meal deal option in the canteen?
Action Taken	Mrs Bailey spoke to Mrs Barker
Outcome and actions	Mrs Bailey spoke to Mrs Barker who already has this on the agenda for menu improvements.

Pupil Voice 3	Year 8 toilets are not always used exclusively by Year 8
Action Taken	Mrs Farley informed the Estates Team.
Outcome and actions	Mrs Bailey informed students that it isn't always possible for it to be just Year 8, but will highlight the issue at the next pastoral meeting. This will be brought up at the next pastoral meeting. Staff availability can mean similar year groups need to share on some days.

Year 9

Pupil Voice 1	Some inconsistency of sanctioning culture in our lessons
Action Taken	Mrs Ham addressed this in the following Extended Leadership Team meeting
Outcome and actions	This has been discussed at Extended Leadership level and all will be made aware of this.
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Pupil Voice 2	We would like a rugby team
Action Taken	Mrs Ham spoke to Mr Bullock
Outcome and actions	Mr Bullock said that when the rugby unit is taught, an additional club will be considered then.
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Pupil Voice 3	Please can we have big pizza back, more sausage butties, crisps, a fruit and salad bar.. more food generally
Action Taken	Mrs Ham spoke to Miss Rigby
Outcome and actions	Miss Rigby is considering requests particularly in regards of a fruit and salad bar. Unhealthy food cannot be introduced as there is national guidance restricting this type of food.
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Pupil Voice 4	Reading Plus - When we have reached the goal can we go back to reading books?
Action Taken	Mrs Ham spoke to Miss Beswick
Outcome and actions	Miss Beswick has reviewed the homework situation with Reading Plus again now the system is up and running. There is a function to change the quota set based on pupil ability level, so lower readers will be set between five or six of the shorter books and higher levels will have three, as an example.
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Pupil Voice 5	Reading plus - 5 lessons are taking a long time up to 3.5 hrs
Action Taken	Mrs Ham spoke to Miss Beswick
Outcome and actions	Ms Smith reviewed the Year 9 statistics which say otherwise: Of pupils completing the required five sessions of Reading Plus in a week, only seven pupils in the year group took over an hour to complete it. At most one pupil spent 105 minutes. The pupil spending the most time, read eight books by choice and took 2hr 48mins. 3.5hrs is not factually correct.
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Pupil Voice 6	Maths homework takes too long and we feel the videos don't help support us
Action Taken	Mrs Ham spoke to Mr Kenrick
Outcome and actions	The Maths department said they are always available to help whenever a pupil requests support. Please raise individual concerns regarding time with your teacher

Year 10

Pupil Voice 1	Pupils really like the food but would like sausage and bacon butties on more days.
Action Taken	Mrs Eastham spoke to Miss Rigby
Outcome and actions	Miss Rigby said that we must focus on healthy eating and increasing the days these are available, is not in line with this.

Year 11

Pupil Voice 1	Please can we have two tills open in Bistro. Can a Year 11 Prefect help maybe?
Action Taken	Mrs Farley spoke to Miss Rigby about this
Outcome and actions	Miss Rigby has the capacity now to staff both tills. Mrs Bullock said Prefects are going to have more of a role in the dining room, however due to GDPR they wouldn't be allowed access to the tills.

Pupil Voice 2	We feel there is too much homework on top of revision and there are unrealistic timescales
Action Taken	Mrs Farley addressed this in the next Extended Leadership Team meeting. Mrs Bullock has done the same.
Outcome and actions	Mrs Bullock has also raised this issue in Pastoral briefings regarding the pressure Year 11 are feeling so this can be taken into consideration by all when setting extended work.

Pupil Voice 3	A couple of pupils are by-passing the Bistro barriers at times
Action Taken	Mrs Farley spoke to the Catering team in the Bistro
Outcome and actions	The Catering team will monitor this with the Estates team and staff on duty.

Pupil Voice 4	Standing behind chairs at the start of lessons and waiting for the whole class to settle and then waiting again once seated is taking time away from learning.
Action Taken	Mrs Farley explained that this is to set the standard for the lesson, and pupils needed to be quicker to comply.
Outcome and actions	

Pupil Voice 5	Lining up outside lessons waiting for the majority to arrive is taking time away from learning.
Action Taken	Mrs Farley explained that this is to set the standard for the lesson, and pupils needed to be quicker to comply.
Outcome and actions	

Pupil Voice 6 Can lunch food be offered in vending machines again?
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Miss Rigby
Outcome and actions Miss Rigby says investment in more vending machines is being considered.

Pupil Voice 7 Can the air conditioning be used more during lessons in the Hex.
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to Mrs Qadri and Miss Gregson
Outcome and actions Mrs Qadri and Miss Gregson will monitor this and adjust as necessary.

Pupil Voice 8 Please can we have two options: Intervention and revision? We would like a lesson and/or being able to decide on our own topics.
Action Taken Mrs Farley spoke to the Extended Leadership Team
Outcome and actions Individual subjects will consider how they can support this and our Study Boost sessions will be introduced after Christmas to support this.

Pupil Voice 9 Please can chewing gum be allowed as it can help with concentration
Action Taken Mrs Farley advised this is not an option. It also causes issues around incorrect disposal and the differentiation of chewing gum and eating in lessons.
Outcome and actions

Pupil voice which was raised for Senior Leadership...

Year 7

We are not allowed to use toilet in lesson. Even if we go at break and lunch – “When you gotta go, you gotta go!” It means we can't concentrate.

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham reminded council members that Priory is not like primary school. We have to take control and manage our time and day. The teachers never leave a lesson to go to the toilet. They will go at break or lunch as they can't leave a class of thirty pupils. Pupils have to take more responsibility. Pupils with toilet passes are the exception to this.

There is confusion about the Pod – Is it just for older pupils?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said this is not the case; It is for all year groups to use if you are in the Pod area. This saves you having to go to the Restaurant to come all the way back.

Why haven't we had planners? We would have liked somewhere to keep important notes/passwords and our timetable etc.

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said up until last year we did have planners but they weren't being used, neither were the teachers asking you to write homework etc in as we now have Teams and Synergy which allow us to communicate with you in different ways. You are free to bring in and use your own diary, planner or notebook.

Year 8

Could swimming become part of PE lessons?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said we used to do this many years ago. The issue is whether the leisure centre can accommodate us. They have primary schools using it as priority to learn to swim. Mr Eastham will look into this.

Could a discount be offered at the leisure centre for Priory pupils?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham says this is a great idea! Mr Eastham had asked this when he was Head of PE and Director of Sport and was told this couldn't be done as it would be unfair for other schools. Mr Eastham sees our pupils as their future customers who will be used to going and will continue with their membership when they leave. Pupils suggested negotiating that Priory pupils use it for an hour after school. Mr Eastham will ask

Please can the Free School Meals allowance be reviewed?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said he will speak to Mrs Barker and Miss Rigby about the allowance level.

Year 9

No further issues raised.

Year 10

Could we have a rail by the Priory Pod (like the Bistro/Restaurant) to organise the queue?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham will look into this if the queue is still disorganised, since the novelty has worn off and it is less busy.

Year 11

Pupil zones – Do we need the pupil zones anymore? Can we just keep the eating areas separate?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said you can go anywhere in the building with the exception of the eating spaces and the designated social areas. It was agreed post-Covid that we would keep Year 10 and Year 11 in the Bistro and KS3 have the Restaurant. Social year group areas are Year 7 in the Hex, Year 8 in the Auditorio, Year 9 in Humanities, Year 10 in the Nucleus and Year 11 in Technology. All other areas are open to all. We ask KS3 not to pass through the Bistro at break and lunch as it gets very busy with the queue in there. There is also the Yard for meeting with friends for other year groups. The younger pupils appreciate their own space and feel more comfortable so we are keeping it this way.

Can we wear blazers OR the jumper. It can be uncomfortable having both on but need the jumper for warmth.

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said it must always be the blazer. The jumper is optional to wear under the blazer. We have to be clear on what the uniform is and which parts must be worn due to the cost of purchasing items. We need to be consistent

We would like more availability of the toilets - Perhaps during lesson changeover, but don't know how to staff this. Could Prefects do this as part of our role as we need more responsibility.

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham says Prefects can consider this but this will impact learning time if toilets were staffed between lessons and should be avoided.

All years are using the Pod and it gets very busy can we have more staff or Prefects to supervise?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham says that this is no longer something that needs addressing as it is usually staffed and now the novelty has worn off, less pupils use it. Prefects can consider adding a duty point here.

Please can we allow time for movement around school?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham said teachers do not use sanctions if the whole class is late. Teachers are at their 'Meet and Great Point', wait for the majority to arrive and then close the door. At this point you are late. If it is cold or wet, the teachers will bring the class in sooner but will monitor who is late.

Please can Pastoral provide paracetamol?

Mr Eastham's response:

Mr Eastham says we are not allowed to give medication on the whole. There are exceptions for pupils with specific medical conditions or treatment plans and we have agreements with parents. We cannot give medication as you might be allergic to it, for example.



